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PP RUEHFL RUEHNP
DE RUEHRO #1451 3360727

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P 010727Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1237
INFO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1525
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1865
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1825
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY 0152
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 1879
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9683
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 3316
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 3477
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2981
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001451

SIPDIS

PM/WRA FOR KATHERINE BAKER AND SHO MORIMOTO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/29/2018
TAGS: PARM NATO MOPS PREL IT
SUBJECT: CLUSTER MUNITIONS: ITALY SUPPORTS U.S.
INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE 21

REF: STATE 125632

Classified By: Acting Political Minister-Counselor J. Liam Wasley for Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Italian MFA Director for Nonproliferation and Arms Control Emanuele Farruggia on November 28. Farruggia confirmed that the GOI intends to sign the convention but shares our interpretation of Article 21 as allowing not only for interoperability but also storage and transit of U.S. Cluster Munitions (CM) on U.S. bases in Italy. Farruggia noted that Italy had pushed for Article 21 to be included in the CCM for precisely this reason and had recently proposed to the British a joint statement at Oslo to this effect, but the British demurred on the grounds that their position on CM on U.S. bases in the UK was still under discussion. He said that the GOI would consult with the U.S. before taking any steps that might compromise the principle of interoperability or CM storage and transit. He noted that the Italian Parliament would probably not be able to ratify the CCM before the end of 2009 because of provisions that would have to be included in the legislation to fund the destruction of Italian CM stocks and their replacement with non-cluster munitions.

DIBBLE